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 From Ankara

MEMORANDUM DATED JANUARY 26, 1955

FROM: Lt. Col. Veight, Acting Air Attache

TO: Embassy - Mr. Wendelin

On Monday 17 January 1955 the Chief of Intelligence, Turkish General Staff, Brig General Pertev Gekge gave a cocktail party at the Ankara Palas for all of the Attaches in Turkey plus key Turkish military officials.

It was noticed that the Russian Attaches were present in full force plus their wives. It was further noted that all Russian Attaches plus the wives were extremely cordial and engaged in conversation with everyone at the party.

One of the most noteworthy observations regarding the Russian actions during the evening involved the Assistant Military Attache for Air, Lt Colonel Mikhail Guirine, his wife, my wife and myself. At past social affairs Colonel Guirine has been pleasant but reserved. His wife has only engaged in conversations with my wife and myself on two other occasions in the past two and one half years. However, on this particular night the Guirines were extremely affable and went out of their way to engage us in conversation. Mrs. Guirine went so far as to cross the large room at the Ankara Palas to greet my wife.

Guirine and I engaged in a conversation of a light nature mostly pleasantries during the evening until the time a buffet supper was served--Mrs. Guirine and Mrs. Veigt participated in the conversation. Upon passing into the dining room and obtaining supper Mrs. Veigt and Mrs. Guirine went back into a second room where tables and chairs were located and had supper together.

Col Guirine engaged in conversation with other attaches (English-Dutch-Amer.) while I did the same with some Turkish Air Force officers.

I constantly watched Mrs. Veigt and Mrs. Guirine to observe any action by other members of the Russian group to join the two ladies--there was none.

I believe the significance of the conversation lies in the fact that during the entire evening no other member of the Russian group attempted to join Col Guirine and myself or Mrs. Veigt and Mrs. Guirine during these prolonged conversations. Especially interesting also was the fact that Mrs. Guirine felt free to leave the main dining room for a table in a side room to have dinner with an American woman, without there being a single Russian in the room.

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Mrs. Veigt stated later that the conversation with Mrs. Guirins covered the usual feminine topics--clothes, children, servants, furniture, etc.--nothing political, nothing unusual. The only information developed was the fact that Mrs. Guirins had been a Lieutenant in the Soviet Army during the war and was interested to hear that Mrs. Veigt had served in the U.S. Air Force during the same period.

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